

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CPR-02 INRE-00 PRS-01

PA-04 DRC-01 L-03 NSC-10 SS-20 /071 W

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O 220910Z DEC 73

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1176

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PEKING 1667

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER CVIS PFOR (SHONK, SARA)

SUBJ: CANCELLATION OF PRC VISA

REF: STATE 249536, STATE 243429

SUMMARY. DURING MEETING WITH MFA CONSULAR OFFICIALS, THEY MADE IT CLEAR THAT PRC WILL NOT ISSUE VISA FOR SHONK, SINCE IT IS NOT CHINESE PRACTICE IN PRCLO WASHINGTON TO ASSIGN INDIVIDUALS ON TEMPORARY BASIS TO REPLACE OFFICIALS TEMPORARILY ABSENT, AND IT IS "NOT CONVENIENT" FOR US TO FOLLOW THIS PRACTICE HERE. PERSONNEL WHO VISIT USLO ON CONSULTATION ARE IN A SEPARATE AND APPARENTLY UNAFFECTED CATEGORY. QUESTION OF B-1 DIPLOMATIC VISAS DISCUSSED IN SEPARATE CONTEXT AND PRC WILL NOW ISSUE "DIPLOMATIC NO. 2" VISAS TO USLO PERSONNEL.

1. DURING MEETING DECEMBER 22 WITH HEAD OF MFA CONSULAR DEPARTMENT TIEN PING, WHO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY LIN YUNG-PING, DEPUTY CHIEF CHOLDRIDGE AND USLO OFFICIALS WERE INFORMED THAT MFA CONSULAR DEPARTMENT WISHED TO CONFIRM WHAT PRC EMBASSY IN KUWAIT TOLD SHONK, IE. THAT IT WAS A "TECHNICAL ERROR" WHICH LED TO THE CANCELLATION OF HER VISA. (MEANING OF THIS EVIDENTLY WAS THAT ERROR LAY IN THEIR ISSUANCE OF VISA IN THE FIRST PLACE.)

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2. TIEN PING SAID THAT THE ASSIGNMENT OF OFFICIALS ON

TEMPORARY BASIS TO REPLACE AN OFFICIAL TEMPORARILY ABSENT IS NOT PRACTICED BY THE CHINESE IN PRCLO WASHINGTON. HENCE IT IS "NOT CONVENIENT" FOR THE CHINESE TO ISSUE SHONK A VISA TO COME HERE.

3. HOLDRIDGE RESPONDED THAT THIS DECISION RAISED SOME QUESTIONS, SINCE THE SIZE OF THE USLO STAFF WAS RATHER SMALL AS COMPARED WITH THE SIZE OF THE PRCLO STAFF. WE WOULD FIND IT DIFFICULT DUE TO LIMITATIONS ON HOUSING AND OFFICE SPACE, HE SAID, TO FOLLOW THE PRACTICE OF THE PRC, THE SIZE OF WHOSE LIAISON OFFICE, HE SURMISED, IS SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE BACKUP FOR PERSONNEL WHO DEPART PRCLO TEMPORARILY. HOLDRIDGE EXPLAINED MISS SHONK'S DUTIES AND REQUESTED MFA TO AUTHORIZE A VISA. HE ALSO SAID HE WAS SURE THAT USG WOULD NOT FIND ANY DIFFICULTIES IN ISSUING VISAS TO PRC OFFICIALS PROCEEDING TO PRCLO FOR TEMPORARY DUTY.

4. TIEN PING REITERATED THAT CHINESE DID NOT ASSIGN PERSONNEL TEMPORARILY AND THAT IT WOULD BE INCONVENIENT TO ISSUE VISAS FOR PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO USLO FOR THIS PURPOSE. (FYI AT NO TIME DURING DISCUSSION DID EITHER SIDE MENTION PENDING REQUESTS FOR ECON OFFICER PERITO AND TCU OFFICER KELCHNER. END FYI)

5. TESTING A RELATED AREA, HOLDRIDGE EXPLAINED THAT USLO DIFFERENTIATES BETWEEN "CONSULTATION" AND DETAILS FOR A SOMEWHAT LONGER PERIOD OF TIME. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR MFA FACILITATION OF CONSULTATION VISITS IN THE PAST AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THESE WOULD CONTINUE.

6. TIEN PING SAID THAT THE DISCUSSION CONCERNED THE SECOND CATEGORY OF PERSONNEL, I.E. THOSE DETAILED FOR A SOMEWHAT LONGER PERIOD.

7. HOLDRIDGE NOTED OUR EFFORTS TO FACILITATE THE WORK OF PRCLO AND, CONSIDERING THE DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES WITH REGARDS TO THE NUMBER OF USLO PERSONNEL, HE AGAIN REQUESTED CONSIDERATION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A VISA FOR MISS SHONK.

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8. TIEN PING REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO THE BROADER IMPLICATIONS AND SAID THAT USLO HAD INFORMED MFA THAT WE WISHED TO DISCUSS MISS SHONK'S VISA AND THAT THIS WAS WHAT WE WERE DISCUSSING. HE REITERATED THAT IT HAD BEEN A "TECHNICAL ERROR" ON THE CHINESE SIDE AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT USLO COULD UNDERSTAND THE CHINESE POSITION.

9. THIS PORTION OF THE MEETING ENDED WITH T'IENT PING AND HOLDRIDGE STATING THAT THE DISCUSSION WOULD BE REFERRED TO THEIR RESPECTIVE SUPERIORS.

10. T'IENT PING THEN SAID THAT LING YUNG-PING WISHED TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THE B-1 DIPLOMATIC VISAS.

11. LIN YUNG-PING BEGAN BY RETURNING 17 PASSPORTS OF USLO PERSONNEL WHICH HAD BEEN SENT TO MFA FOR VISA RENEWALS AFTER THE CHINESE INFORMED US THEY WOULD ISSUE MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS VALID FOR ONE YEAR. LIN REFERRED TO HIS DECEMBER 6 CONFERENCE WITH OTHER USLO OFFICIALS CONCERNING THE B-1 DIPLOMATIC VISAS AND THE CHINESE VIEWS WHICH HE HAD DETAILED THEN CONCERNING RECIPROCITY.

12 SINCE PASSPORTS FOR PRCLO PERSONNEL HAD BEEN RETURNED ON DECEMBER 20 WITH "B-1 DIPLOMATIC" VISAS IN THEM, THE CHINESE SIDE HAD BEEN COMPELLED TO TAKE "RECIPROCAL ACTION". HENCEFORTH, AND INCLUDING THE PASSPORTS WHICH HAD JUST BEEN RETURNED, THE CHINESE WILL ISSUE "DIPLOMATIC NO. 2" VISAS TO USLO PERSONNEL.

13. HORDRIDGE PROVIDED THE EXPLANATION AND ASSURANCES (STATE 243429) CONCERNING B-1 DIPLOMATIC VISAS AND ASKED WHAT "DIPLOMATIC NO. 2" VISAS IMPLIED. LIN REITERATED THAT IT WAS A QUESTION OF RECIPROCITY. HOLDRIDGE REPEATED THAT DIPLOMATIC B-1 VISAS ENTITLE THE CHINESE TO THE SAME DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES ACCORDED ANY DIPLOMAT ARRIVING AT A PORT OF ENTRY IN THE UNITED STATES, AND SAID HE ASSUMED SAME WOULD BE TRUE FOR U.S. PERSONNEL ENTERING CHINA ON "DIPLOMATIC NO. 2" VISAS.
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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIE-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10 SS-20

SSO-00 L-03 CPR-02 INRE-00 DRC-01 /071 W

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O 220910Z DEC 73

FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1177

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PEKING 1667

14. COMMENT: IT IS OF COURSE DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHAT HAS MOTIVATED CHINESE IN NOT GRANTING VISAS FOR PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO USLO FOR TEMPORARY DUTY, BUT LINKAGE MADE BY T'EN PING BETWEEN PRACTICE FOLLOWED BY PRCLO WASHINGTON IN NOT ASKING FOR TDY VISAS AND "INCONVENIENCE" OF NOT ISSUING SAME TO PERSONNEL COMING TO USLO, MAY INDICATE PRC CONCERN OVER IMBALANCE IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN OUR RESPECTIVE LIAISON OFFICES. CHINESE MAY BE USING THIS APPROACH TO TELL US OBLIQUELY THAT WE SHOULD FOLLOW THEIR OWN PRACTICE AND ASSIGN SUFFICIENT PERSONNEL TO USLO PEKING TO BE ABLE TO CARRY ON IN THE ABSENCE OF SOME STAFF MEMBERS. IF SO, THIS RELATES TO A MUCH LARGER MATTER OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF CONSULAR QUESTIONS. HOLDRIDGE IN FACT DID NOT GO FURTHER ALONG LINES OF STATE 249536 ON GROUNDS THAT ISSUE NOW NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED AT POLITICAL LEVEL AND THAT T'EN PING'S INSTRUCTIONS WOULD PROBABLY NOT PERMIT HIM TO GO BEYOND WHAT HE HAD ALREADY SAID.

15. ANOTHER FACTOR MAY BE CHINESE RELUCTANCE TO ADMIT PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THE CONSULATE GENERAL IN HONG KONG INTO THE PRC FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME OR TO WORK IN USLO INSTEAD OF JUST VISITING IT. CHINESE SENSITIVITIES ON THIS SCORE ARE NOW WELL-DOCUMENTED, E.G. INITIAL UNWILLINGNESS TO ALLOW STARBIRD AND PERITO TO TRAVEL TO CANTON ON TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT TO CANTON TRADE FAIR. THE DEPARTMENT IS OF COURSE ALSO AWARE OF CERTAIN OTHER CONFIDENTIAL

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PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN WHEN HONG KONG-BASED OFFICIALS PREVIOUSLY VISITED USLO ON CONSULTATION. THUS, WHEN WE REQUESTED IN THE SAME NOTE A VISA FOR SHONK AND PERIOT FROM HONG KONG, THE CHINESE MAY HAVE BEEN FORCED INTO A DECISION WHICH FROM OUR STANDPOINT IS UNFORTUNATE. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW THEY WILL NOW HANDLE REQUESTS FOR VISAS FOR HONG KONG PERSONNEL VISITING USLO ON CONSULTATION RATHER THAN TDY. PRESUMABLY SUCH REQUESTS WILL STILL BE GRANTED PROVIDED TIME IN CHINA IS NOT OVERLONG.

16. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE B-1 DIPLOMATIC VISA PLAYED TOO LARGE A ROLE IN THE CHINESE DECISION, ALTHOUGH IT WAS ANOTHER IRRITANT.

17. THE VISAS WHICH HAVE NOW BEEN ISSUED TO USLO PERSONNEL ARE EXACTLY THE SAME AS PREVIOUS EXCEPT THEY PROVIDE FOR

MULTIPLE EXIT AND ENTRY; ARE VALID FOR ONE YEAR, AND A SMALL SUB "2" (6310) HAS BEEN ADDED JUST TO THE RIGHT AND BELOW THE "DIPLOMATIC" CHARACTERS ABOVE THE VISA.

18. WE WILL REPORT IF PERSONNEL USING THESE PASSPORTS ARE NOT ACCORDED FULL DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES, BUT WE SUSPECT THAT SOME HOLDERS (PROBABLY OF EXACTLY THE SAME RANK) WILL BE SEARCHED OR OTHERWISE DISCOMFITED IN PRECISELY THE SAME MANNER AND TO THE SAME EXTENT THAT PRCLO OFFICIALS WERE. END COMMENT.

19. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO HONG KONG.
BRUCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PEKING01667
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973128/aaaaafww.tel
Line Count: 236
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 249536, STATE 243429
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27-Jul-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <15-Jan-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANCELLATION OF PRC VISA
TAGS: APER, CVIS, PFOR, (SHONK, SARA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005